<u>Amendments to the Claims</u>:

1-27 (canceled)

28.   (previously presented) An image segmentation method, said method comprising:

   a)   obtaining pixel attribute data for a mixed-content image, said pixel attribute data comprising at least one of a luminance data, a chrominance data and a hue data;

   b)   downsampling said pixel data;

   c)   filtering said pixel data to remove noise;

   d)   computing a local discriminating feature, selected from the group consisting of standard deviation and spread, to identify a text region in said image, wherein a region is identified as text when said feature is above a local feature threshold value;

   e)   analyzing a luminance histogram of said image to identify a background region in said image, wherein a region is identified as background when an initial maximum histogram bin containing the highest number of pixels exceeds a background threshold value;

   f)   verifying said background region analysis using region chrominance data;

   g)   labeling any background regions as such;

   h)   analyzing areas in said image outside any of said background regions and outside any of said text regions to identify contone regions;

   i)   verifying said contone regions using region properties, wherein said contone regions are eliminated when a contone region's area is smaller than the square of one tenth of the page width;

   j)   analyzing said contone regions to identify text regions present within said contone regions;

   k)   analyzing said contone regions to identify background regions present in said contone regions;

   l)   analyzing areas in said contone regions outside any of said background regions and outside any of said text regions to identify contone sub-regions;

   m)   repeating steps e-g until no further sub-regions are found; and

   n)   analyzing said contone regions and said contone sub-regions to identify pictorial contone regions and non-pictorial contone regions.

29. (canceled)

30. (new) An image segmentation method, said method comprising:

    a)   obtaining pixel attribute data for a mixed-content image;

    b)   identifying a text region in said image;

        i)   identifying a background region in said image;

        ii) analyzing areas in said image outside any of said background regions and outside any of said text regions to identify contone regions;

    c)   analyzing said contone regions to identify any text regions present within said contone regions;

    d)   analyzing said contone regions to identify any background regions present in said contone regions;

    e)   analyzing areas in said contone regions outside any of said background regions and outside any of said text regions to identify contone sub-regions;

    f)   repeating steps e-g until no further sub-regions are found; and

    g)   removing contone regions whose area is smaller than the square of one tenth of the page width.